Asian Cooperation dialogue

*173. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) held, recently, has proposed any agenda for sustainable peace in this continent;

(b) if so, the details thereof aiongwith the conclusions evolved in ACD;

(c) whether ACD is proposed to be held periodically; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DJGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The First Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) that was held on 18-19 June, 2002 at the initiative o(Thailand, focused on economic cooperation for poverty alleviation in Asia. The need for peace and stability as a pre-condition for economic development was recognised.

(b) It was agreed that the ACD is an evolving process that should be open and inclusive in membership, proceed in a gradual manner and should not replicate existing frameworks.

(c) and (d) While no decision has been taken on the periodicity of ACD meetings, Thailand as Coordinator has announced that it would host the next meeting of the ACD in June 2003 in Chiang Rai.

Presence of Al-Qaida men in Pakistan

*174. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 3000 Al-Qaida men are living in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have shared this information with USA and UK;

(c) if so, their reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet Al-Qaida threat?